IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 10

BY WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

TO THE DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, THE UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF CONGRESS, AND THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION REPRESENTING THE STATE OF IDAHO IN THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES.

We, your Memorialists, the House of Representatives and the Senate of the State of Idaho assembled in the First Regular Session of the Sixty-third Idaho Legislature, do hereby respectfully represent that:

WHEREAS, the purpose of a comprehensive conservation plan for a national wildlife refuge is to specify a management direction for the refuge that takes many considerations, including recreational opportunities, into account; and

WHEREAS, the Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge, including Lake Lowell, has been an important source of outdoor recreational opportunities for the people of Idaho since the refuge's creation more than 100 years ago; and

WHEREAS, the comprehensive conservation plan proposed for the Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service imposes certain restrictions on recreational activities that are of great concern to the people of Idaho; and

WHEREAS, such restrictions will have a profoundly negative impact on boating, hiking and hunting opportunities in the refuge; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes the importance of conservation and preservation of habitat and wildlife and supports the United States Fish and Wildlife Service in its conservation and preservation efforts; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature believes that the goals of conservation and preservation can still be met while considering and respecting the importance of outdoor recreational opportunities held sacred by the people of Idaho

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the First Regular Session of the Sixty-third Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and the Senate concurring therein, that the United States Fish and Wildlife Service reconsider the excessive boating, hunting and hiking restrictions in the proposed Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge comprehensive conservation plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that future comprehensive conservation plans and other federal efforts at wildlife management that affect Idaho be developed in cooperation with Idaho stakeholders.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives and the Senate of Idaho request that our congressional delegates urge the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to address the concerns discussed in this Memorial and to develop future plans and efforts in cooperation with Idaho stakeholders.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives be, and she is hereby authorized and directed to forward a copy of this Memorial to the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the United States Secretary of the Interior, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Congress, and the congressional delegation representing the State of Idaho in the Congress of the United States.